



**Iran reiterates nuke weapon threat**

Tehran

Iran increased its threat to regional security on Tuesday by boasting that its nuclear program was more advanced than ever.

Ali Akbar Salehi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization and vice president to Hassan Rouhani, said that if US President Donald Trump succeeded in dismantling the 2015 deal to curb the program, Tehran would resume uranium enrichment with more sophisticated equipment.

"If we have to go back and withdraw from the nuclear deal, we certainly do not go back to where we were before," he said. "We will be standing on a much, much higher position."

Iran stores centrifuges to enrich uranium at its underground Natanz facility, under surveillance by the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency. Salehi said it would build a new facility at Natanz that will produce more advanced centrifuges.

**US warns Iran over attacks**

Washington

The US warned Iran on Tuesday it will "respond swiftly and decisively" to any attacks by Tehran's allies in Iraq that result in injury to Americans or damage to US facilities.

The statement by the White House press secretary accused Iran of not preventing attacks in recent days on the US Consulate in Basra and the American Embassy compound in Baghdad.

**Strong US relations stressed**



His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday received retired US General Anthony Zinni and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Arabian Gulf Affairs in the Near East Bureau at the US Department of State Tim Lenderking at Sakhir Palace, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister. HM the King welcomed the two US officials and reviewed with them deep-rooted historic relations binding the two countries and means of further strengthening joint ties, hailing steadily-growing cooperation in all fields.

**Bahrain honoured**

The visit by Nobel Peace Prize winners will remain engraved in memory, says HRH the Premier

● HRH the Premier said that the current challenges unfolding in many regions necessitate more international concerted action to create the required conditions for peace.

● The Premier expressed thanks to the members of the delegation for their press statements in which they hailed Bahrain's development strides.



HRH the Premier with the delegation of Nobel Peace Prize winners.

Manama

His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa yesterday hailed the visit of the heads of states and Nobel Peace Prize laureates to the Kingdom.

HRH the Premier described the landmark visit as being historic and memorable, bringing together on the land of peace, three heads of states and peace laureates, whose achievements are recognized all over the world.

The Premier expressed deepest thanks and appreciation to the heads of states and organi-

sations, recipients of the Nobel Prize, for accepting the invitation to visit the Kingdom, hailing their strenuous efforts to promote and bolster peace all over the world.

"This landmark visit will remain engraved in the memory for its high significance and crucial timing," he said, describing the visit of the 'Men of Peace' as an international recognition of Bahrain's role in advocating global peace.

HRH the Premier delivered the keynote address as he hosted a dinner banquet at the Ritz Carlton in honour of the heads of states and organisations as well as recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The delegation comprised former President of South Africa Frederick William de Klerk, for-

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HRH THE PREMIER

mer President of Poland Lech Walesa, former President of East Timor Jose Ramos-Horta and Under-Secretary-General and former Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Anna Tibajuka, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate for 2014 Kailash Satyarthi.

HRH the Premier said that the current challenges unfolding in many regions necessitate more

international concerted action to create the required conditions for peace which will bolster the strenuous efforts exerted by countries and societies to achieve sustainable development and build a more prosperous future.

The Premier expressed thanks to the members of the delegation for their press statements in which they hailed Bahrain's development strides. He reiterated Bahrain's keenness on pursuing this cooperation for the sake of peace, security and peace in the world, which emanates from its firm belief in noble message of peace, the cornerstone of countries' security, stability and development.

Former Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) Anna Tibajuka addressed

the event, congratulating His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, HRH the Premier and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister on Bahrain's development strides and success in overcoming all challenges.

She paid tribute to HRH the Premier for his dedicated efforts which enabled the Kingdom of Bahrain to make landmark development strides, hailing the Kingdom's cooperation in various fields, particularly its support to Human Habitat projects.

"The Kingdom of Bahrain is at the forefront, spearheading future-oriented development projects which changed the Kingdom into a civilized and advanced country", she said.

PEACE CORNER

**Afghan cafe puts freedom back on the menu**

Helmand

Afghanistan's Helmand province, long notorious for its security challenges, is one of the most dangerous places for foreign forces operating in the country.

The area is also known for its opium trade and has a reputation as a Taliban stronghold. Even today, residents live in a state of perpetual fear since the extremist forces have yet to be fully defeated.

Nevertheless, there is an urge among Helmand's youth to live and enjoy life. In a socially conservative culture that has left people starved for entertainment, many have discovered the magic of Ayenak Restaurant and Cafe in Nawa district.

The cafe and restaurant were designed for young people who want to forget war, relax and enjoy their evenings



For young people in Helmand who want to relax and enjoy their evenings and get a respite from the pressures of war, Ayenak Restaurant and Cafe is the place to go.

at a venue surrounded by a beautiful landscape with the added option of swimming in the river or visiting gardens laden with fruit.

The breathtaking beauty of the place draws visitors from across Helmand and Kandahar. Most come with friends to unwind. The restaurant also offers guests Afghan food, tea, coffee, juices and shisha.

"Our cafe can accommodate about 400 guests at one time. It has a huge yard, cabins and places for people to sit outside," said Abdul Shakur Alham, the 26-year-old owner of the outlet.

However, Ayenak cafe is not only a tourist attraction but also a symbol of defiance. While many outlets in the main cities offer flavored tobacco and shisha openly, this is the only shop providing the service in an insecure, Taliban-dominated area.



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